

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 130656
ORIGIN NEA-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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STADIS////////////////

FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 7957 ACTION STATE MAY 22.

QUOTE MITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7957

STADIS////////////////

FOR NEA/INS LANDE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (DESAI, MORARJI)
SUBJECT: ARRANGEMENTS FOR DESAI VISIT

1. ASRANI TOLD DCH MAY 20 THAT SHANKAR WAS SHOWING
CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION OVER USG "PARSIMONY" WITH RESPECT
TO CERTAIN ASPECTS OF PM'S FORTHCOMING TRIP. GOI WAS
INFORMED THROUGH INDIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON THAT US WOULD
PAY FOR SUITES FOR ONLY TOP 3 PERSONS IN OFFICIAL PARTY,
I.E. PM, FOREIGN MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR PALKHIVALA, WITH
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OTHERS ENTITLED TO SINGLE ROOMS. INDIAN REGULATIONS WOULD
PERMIT SUITES FOR THOSE DOWN TO AND INCLUDING FOREIGN
SECRETARY. THIS WOULD MEAN THREE ADDITIONAL SUITES, I.E.
FOR SHANKAR, KANTIBHAI DESAI AND FOREIGN SECRETARY.

2. IN ADDITION, GOI WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE IF USG COULD
PICK UP HOTEL TAB FOR OFFICIAL PARTY IN NEW YORK ON

JUNE 15, ALTHOUGH 15TH WOULD EXCEED SIX DAYS ALLOWABLE.
DESAI PARTY WILL DEPART NEW YORK ON EVENING JUNE 15
BUT WILL NEED HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS THAT AFTERNOON.

3. FOREIGN SECRETARY SPECIFICALLY ASKED ASRANI TO
RAISE QUESTION OF PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR DESAI VISIT.
I AM POUCHING TO YOU TODAY ICA MEMO WHICH DISCUSSES
ARRANGEMENTS ESTABLISHED TO DATE AND IDENTIFIES SOME
STILL EXISTING PROBLEMS. PRINCIPAL INDIAN CONCERN, AS WE SEE
IT, IS QUESTION OF U.S. RECIPROCITY. GOI WENT TO
GREAT EXPENSE AND TROUBLE TO MEET OUR EXTENSIVE
REQUIREMENTS FOR HANDLING A LARGE PRESS CORPS. INDIANS ARE
ASKING IF USG, AS MATTER OF RECIPROCITY, COULD PAY COSTS
OF MODEST PRESS CENTER AT EMBASSY ROW HOTEL DURING PERIOD
JUNE 11-14. ESTIMATED COST IS \$2000.

4. WE HOPE YOU COULD SUPPORT THESE INDIAN REQUESTS WITHIN
DEPARTMENT. THEY STRIKE US AS MODEST INDEED COMPARED TO WHAT
THE GOI DID FOR US DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.
. GOHEEN
UNQUOTE VANCE

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